

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink tank comprising:  
an ink containing portion for containing ink;  
an ink lead-out portion for leading out ink in  
5 said ink containing portion to the outside; and  
an electrode inlet portion for inletting an  
electrode into said ink containing portion, said  
electrode inlet portion being different from said ink  
lead-out portion,  
10 wherein said ink lead-out portion and said  
electrode inlet portion are connected through a  
conductive member.
2. An ink tank according to Claim 1, wherein  
15 said conductive member is a film having conductive  
substance coated therefor.
3. An ink tank according to Claim 2, wherein  
said ink lead-out portion and said electrode inlet  
20 portion are substantially sealed by said film.
4. An ink tank according to Claim 2, wherein for  
said ink lead-out portion and said electrode inlet  
portion, an ink absorbing member are arranged to be  
25 in contact with said film but not directly in contact  
with ink in said ink containing portion.

5. An ink jet printer capable of mounting the  
ink tank according to Claim 1 comprising:

a conductive ink lead-out member to be inserted  
into said ink lead-out portion;

5 an electrode to be inserted into said electrode  
inlet portion; and

a circuit portion for applying voltage between  
said ink lead-out member and said electrode and for  
measuring an electric current in a route,

10 wherein the electric current measured by said  
circuit portion changes in accordance with the  
presence and absence of ink in said ink tank, and the  
attachment and detachment of ink tank to and from  
said ink jet printer.

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6. An ink jet printer according to Claim 5,  
wherein said ink lead-out member is a hollow needle-  
type metallic member.

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